



# California Department of Veterans Affairs

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## VETERANS NEWS

Contact: JP Tremblay  
Jaime Arteaga  
Legislation and Public Affairs  
916-653-2192  
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### Statement on John Smith's Passing

It is with great sadness that the California Department of Veterans Affairs joins the family John Smith and the rest of the Veterans Community of San Diego in mourning his sudden passing. Below is a statement from Secretary Roger Brautigan.

**"I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of John Smith a long time member of the CalVet Chula Vista family and my special representative in the San Diego area. He was a special friend to me and he was a special individual who had a powerful passion for veterans. He will be sorely missed."**

#### **John Smith:**

John Smith served in the U.S. Army as a combat medic with 1st Air Cavalry in 1968-69; also served in Tay Ninh, Cu Chi, Plieku and in Europe achieving the rank of Spec 5. Married 34 years to Lenora with two children, Keith and Kimberly. Special representative for California Department of Veterans Affairs starting his career with CalVet at the Chula Vista State Veterans Home when it opened in 2000.

Smith was one of the original founders of Vietnam Veterans of San Diego, VVSD, which is now called Veterans Village of San Diego that serves to help not only homeless veterans everyday, but all of our region's military veterans and their families through a wide variety of outreach programs. VVSD was founded back in 1981. Smith was not only a member, but a leader of almost every veteran service organization in the San Diego region. He's a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the VFW, at Chula Vista Post #2111 and was a member of the VFW's National Legislative Committee. He was also active with the American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart Veterans, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, and many U.S. Army organizations.

Funeral arrangements for Smith are still pending.

Note to editors: This Veterans News and previous CalVet news releases, advisories and newsletters are available on our website at [www.calvet.ca.gov](http://www.calvet.ca.gov) and via email from [jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov](mailto:jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov).

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